

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

List of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An ~~real-time~~ inventory status and information system comprising:
 - a database, ~~wherein~~ the database storing ~~stores~~ at least on-hand, reserved, and ordered inventory quantities ~~information~~ associated with a plurality of inventory items;
 - a server, the server providing access to information from the database via a communication interface, the server also pushing out updates to inventory quantities as such inventory quantities change;
 - a client, ~~wherein~~ the client providing ~~provides~~ a user interface through which information accessible via the server may be accessed and displayed, the user interface further allowing a user to view ~~to the system, and wherein the user interface permits selection of at least one of an inventory item from the plurality of inventory items and requests inventory quantities information associated with the a selected inventory items~~ item, view inventory quantity updates provided by the server, and place a specified quantity of the selected inventory item on reserve as an order is placed.
 - ~~a server, wherein the server provides the client with real-time inventory information associated with the selected at least one inventory item by transmitting to the client updates to the at least a subset of the inventory information requested by the client as such inventory information changes; and,~~
 - ~~a communication interface, wherein the communication interface provides access to the database, the interface communicating between the server and the database.~~
2. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1, said server comprising a web server.
3. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 2,

said client comprising a web browser operating on a cellular telephone.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,
said client comprising a device capable of reading a container label labels to identify
the selected inventory item.

10. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 9,
said device comprising a barcode scanner.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of real-time inventory item status and information
dissemination, comprising the steps of:

recording in an inventory database a quantity on-hand for a plurality of inventory items,
the inventory database being stored in an electronic data storage element in a
server;

recording in the inventory database a first order for a first inventory item and the
corresponding order properties, the corresponding order properties comprising a
first quantity ordered, a date ordered, and at least one of an anticipated delivery
time and an anticipated delivery date, the first order representing an order placed
with a supplier, the first inventory item being one of the plurality of inventory
items;

recording in the inventory database a second quantity of the first inventory item
received from the supplier by at least incrementing the on-hand inventory item
quantity corresponding to the first inventory item, wherein the on-hand inventory
item quantity is incremented in an amount equal to the second quantity;

storing in the inventory database information associated with at least one purchase request for a third quantity of the first inventory item, comprising placing a quantity of inventory items on reserve by incrementing in the inventory database an on reserve inventory item quantity by an amount corresponding to the third quantity for the first inventory item, the purchase request being received from the client as an order is placed;

receiving from a user, via a client, at least one request for information about the first inventory item;

calculating, via one of the server or the client, an inventory item quantity available for delivery for the first inventory item as a difference between an inventory item quantity on-hand and an inventory item quantity on reserve for the first inventory item;

displaying for the user, via the client, the inventory item quantity available for delivery for the first inventory item;

transmitting, via a wireless communications means, from the server to the client the updated inventory item quantity available for delivery for the first inventory item when the inventory item quantity available for the first inventory item changes, thereby providing the client with real-time access to inventory information about the first inventory item; and,

displaying for the user, via the client, the updated inventory item quantity for the first inventory item.

13. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, wherein said first orders are entered through an accounting system.

14. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 13, wherein said accounting system automatically updates the corresponding order properties in the inventory database.

RESPONSE

Examiner: GORT, Elaine L.

Serial No. 09/769,294
Atty. Docket No.: 053881.010100

15. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, wherein electronically readable codes corresponding to inventory items are used as a basis for recording inventory items as they are received, returned, or shipped.
16. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 15, in which said electronically readable codes are Universal Product Code (UPC) codes.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously Presented) The real time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, further comprising the step of reading an electronically readable code corresponding to a sixth inventory item as the sixth inventory item is shipped.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, further comprising recording in the inventory database any inventory items returned by a customer by at least incrementing the on-hand inventory item quantity corresponding to the returned inventory items.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, further comprising decrementing in the inventory database both reserve and on hand inventory item totals corresponding to the first inventory item upon shipment of the first inventory item, wherein the reserve and on hand inventory item totals are decremented by an amount equal to the quantity of the first inventory items in the shipment.
23. (Currently Amended) A real-time inventory information system, comprising:
a client, ~~wherein the client comprises a browser, and wherein the browser provides~~
the client providing a user interface through which updated inventory information about a selected inventory item can be displayed, and through which the selected inventory item can be placed on reserve as an order is placed;

an inventory database, wherein the inventory database comprises inventory information about a plurality of inventory items, wherein the inventory information for each of the plurality of inventory items comprises quantity on hand, quantity on order, and quantity on reserve; and,
a server, wherein the server monitors changes to the inventory information about the selected inventory item in the inventory database and transfers at least a subset of the updated inventory information to the client as such changes occur, thereby providing the client with real-time access to the inventory information.

24. (New) The system of claim 23, the client implemented on a cellular telephone.

25. (New) The system of claim 24, the client comprising a browser.

26. (New) Computer program process code, tangibly stored on a computer readable medium, the computer program process code comprising instructions interpretable by a processor, the instructions comprising:

receiving an inventory quantity inquiry from a client, the inventory quantity inquiry associated with an inventory item;
determining the available quantity of the inventory item by polling a database;
providing the available quantity to the client;
monitoring the database for changes to the available quantity of the inventory item;
providing an update to the client when changes are made to the available quantity of the inventory item;
receiving an inventory item reservation request from the client, the inventory item reservation request comprising an inventory item and a quantity of the inventory item that is to be placed on reserve, the inventory item reservation request being sent by the client as an order is placed.; and,
incrementing, in the database, an on reserve quantity associated with the inventory item identified in the inventory item reservation request by the quantity to be placed on reserve from the inventory item reservation request.

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27. (New) The computer program process code of claim 26, the client comprising software operating on a cellular telephone.

28. (New) The computer program process code of claim 27, the software comprising a browser.

29. (New) The computer program process code of claim 26, the available quantity of the inventory item being determined as the difference between the quantity of the inventory item that is on hand and the quantity of the inventory item that is on reserve.

30. (New) The computer program process code of claim 26, further comprising instructions comprising:
consolidating a plurality of inventory item reservation requests into an order; and
decrementing, in the database, the on reserve and the quantity on hand associated with each inventory item in the order when the order ships.

31. (New) The computer program process code of claim 26, further comprising instructions comprising:
receiving an indication that an additional quantity of the inventory item is available;
and,
incrementing, in the database, the on hand quantity associated with the inventory item by the additional quantity.